IN THE CLAIMS

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59. (New) A method for detecting the pitch values of notes in a musical sound signal, comprising the steps of:

(a) isolating notes in the sound signal;

(b) dividing said notes into one or more groups of blocks;

(c) deriving pitch values of said blocks; and

(d) deriving the pitch values of said notes by means of clustering on said pitch values of said blocks.

60. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the process of isolating notes uses note markers to do so.

61. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the blocks in a group are of equal length.

62. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein each group contains the same number of blocks.

63. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the process of deriving the pitch values comprises applying k-mean clustering on the block pitch values.

64. (New) A method according to claim 59, further comprising the step (e) of rounding

the detected pitch values of the notes to the nearest note values.

65. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the note isolating step is performed based on a determination of silences in the musical sound signal.

66. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the note isolating step is performed based on a determination of note markers in the musical sound signal.

67. (New) A method according to claim 63, further comprising the step of extracting notes from said pitch values to create note descriptors.

68. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the musical sound signal is digitised.

69. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the musical sound signal is an audio signal of a sound produced by a person.

70. (New) A method according to claim 69, wherein the sound comprises one or more of the group of: humming, singing and whistling at least a portion of a piece of music.

71. (New) Apparatus for use in use in detecting the pitch values of notes in a musical sound signal, operable according to the method of claim 59.

72. (New) Apparatus for detecting the pitch values of notes in a musical sound signal, comprising:

(a) note isolating means for isolating notes in the sound signal;

(b) pitch value dividing means for dividing said notes into one or more groups of blocks;

(c) block pitch value deriving means for deriving pitch values of said blocks; and

(d) note pitch value deriving means for deriving the pitch values of said notes by means of clustering on said pitch values of said blocks.

73. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein said note isolating means uses note markers to isolate notes.

74. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the blocks in a group are of equal length.

75. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein each group contains the same number of blocks.

76. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the note pitch value deriving means is operable to apply k-mean clustering on the block pitch values.

77. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, further comprising rounding means for rounding the detected pitch values of the notes to the nearest note values.

78. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the note isolating means operates based on a determination of silences in the musical sound signal.

79. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the note isolating means operates based on a determination of note markers in the musical sound signal.

80. (New) Apparatus according to claim 76, further comprising note extracting means for extracting notes from said pitch values to create note descriptors.

81. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, operable to process a digital musical sound signal.

82. (New) Apparatus according to claim 72, operable to process a musical sound signal being an audio signal of a sound produced by a person.

83. (New) Apparatus according to claim 82, wherein the sound comprises one or more of the group of: humming, singing and whistling at least a portion of a piece of music.

84. (New) Software which, when loaded, is operable according to the method of claim 59.

85. (New) A memory device containing software according to claim 84.

86. (New) A computer having loaded therein, software according to claim 84.

Respectfully submitted,

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